

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 R

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234377

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. FOLLOWING ALSO SENT LENINGRAD. WE HAD A MEETING WITH ART ON MRS. R'S TRIP AND ART MADE SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS BASED ON HIS PREVIOUS DEALINGS. FOR CONTROL OFFICERS HE ADVISES THAT THEY SHOULD KEEP CLOSE TRACK OF EVERYTHING, BUT MAKE SURE THAT THEY DO NOT PUSH THEMSELVES INTO SITUATIONS IN WHICH THEY MIGHT NOT BE WANTED. MRS. R PREFERS EFFICIENT BUT UNOBTRUSIVE ASSISTANCE. CHARGE AND CONGEN SHOULD MEET ON ARRIVAL AND TELL HER THAT ALL SERVICES OF THE EMBASSY AND CONGEN ARE AVAILABLE IF NEEDED AND THEN LEAVE IT UP TO HER THEREAFTER. ART ALSO SUGGESTED THAT YOU HAVE SOME MATEUS ROSE WINE ON HAND IF POSSIBLE.

2. ART WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUESTION OF WHO WOULD BE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PARTY AND WONDERED IF THE SOVIETS WOULD TRY TO TAKE ON THE WHOLE VISIT, I.E. OFFERING A GUEST HOUSE, PROVIDING AN INTERPRETER AND SOMEONE TO ACCOMPANY, ETC. WE ASSURED HIM THAT THE EMBASSY AND
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CONGEN WOULD BE ON TOP OF THINGS AND WOULD BE ABLE TO

MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS DIRECTLY IF SOVIETS DID NOT TAKE AN OVERLY ACTIVE ROLE IN THIS. WHEN WE ASKED MRS. R'S PEOPLE INFORMALLY ABOUT THIS, THEY THOUGH SHE MIGHT WELCOME A SOVIET OFFER TO ASSIST AND PROVIDE ACCOMMODATIONS. THEY ALSO THOUGH SHE WOULD ACCEPT INVITATION FOR SMALL DINNER PARTY BY CHARGE AND CG, IF OFFERED, AS LONG AS IT IS NOT BIG OR ELABORATE. THEY HAD NOT CLEARED WITH HER, HOWEVER.

3. WE HAVE POSED ALL THE QUESTIONS YOU RAISED IN YOUR

CABLE TO MRS. R'S PEOPLE AND HOPE TO HAVE ANSWERS SOON. WE POINTED OUT THAT VISAS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, HOTELS, ETC. WERE NOT HANDLED IN SAME WAY AS IN WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. ART FEARS THERE WILL BE A TENDENCY NOT TO FOCUS ON QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE AND SUGGESTS THE EMBASSY AND CONGEN COME IN WITH A CABLE MAKING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO SEE, ACCOMMODATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN THINK OF.

4. USIA IS A BIT DISTURBED THAT JOE HAS DECLINE TO PUT KEOGH UP AT HIS PALACE DURING THE LENINGRAD PART. I CAN CERTAINLY SYMPATHIZE WITH JOE, BUT I WONDER IF IT WOULD-N'T BE POLITIC TO EXTEND ONESELF IN THIS CASE. I HAVE RAISED IT WITH JOE SEPARATELY BY O-I, BUT IF YOU SHARE MY FEELING YOU MIGHT WANT TO MENTION IT ALSO. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE234377
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MGARRISON:VPB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760357-0481
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760935/aaaabdxs.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL
TAGS: OGEN
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006